

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

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R 210705Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5848

AMEMBASSY MASERU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 2275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, LT

SUBJ: LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAN

1. CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN, PRIME MINISTER OF LESOTHO, ARRIVED IN TEHRAN MARCH 16TH FOR A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT AS GUEST OF IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DELEGATION OF EIGHT OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTER OF FINANCE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SEKHONYANA AND DEPUTY PRIMIN MASHOLOGU. CHIEF JONATHAN WAS RECEIVED BY SHAH MARCH 18 AND HELD A ROUND OF TALKS WITH HOVEYDA, NATL IRANIAN OIL CO CHIEF EQBAL, FONMIN KHALATBARI AND JINECON ANSARY. DELEGATION ALSO VISITED AN ARMAMENT PLANT, IRANIAN NATIONAL AUTO PLANT, KARAJ DAM AND NEARBY POULTRY FARM, RAZI INSTITUTE AND TEHRAN REFINERY.

2. AT BANQUETS GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY HOVEYDA, JONATHAN THANKED GOI FOR AID ALREADY GIVEN HIS COUNTRY (BUSES, TEACHERS AND CLINIC DONATED BY PRINCESS ASHRAF) AND EXPRESSED HOPE VISIT WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION SO LESOTHO COULD PROFIT FROM IRANIAN EXPERIENCE IN
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AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, RAW MATERIALS PROCESSING,

BANKING AND TOURISM.

3. ON MARCH 20 MFA CHIEF OF AFRICAN DIEIVISION SHAHBAZI TOLD POLCOUN THAT VISIT HAD GONE WELL AND BOTH SIDES WERE PLEASED BUT NOTHING SPECIFIC IN WAY OF ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON. GOI WILL SEND DELEGATION OF OIL, AGRICULTURAL AND SMALL INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO LESOTHO NEXT MONTH TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES ON THE SPOT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. SHABAZI SAID ANY AGRICULTURAL AID AGREED UPON MIGHT BE CHANNELED THRU FAO..

4. COMMENT: JONATHAN'S VISIT, THE THIRD BY AN AFRICAN HEAD OF STATE IN LAST FEW WEEKS (WITH KENYA'S SOON TO COME), APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER SUCCESS IN IRAN'S EFFORT TO BROADEN ITS INFLUENCE AND INCREASE ITS PRESTIGE IN AFRICAN LDC'S. DURING THIS AND OTHER RECENT VISITS GOI HAS GONE ALL OUT TO EMPHASIZE ITS WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO AID THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WITH BOTH TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IRAN, UNLIKE OTHER OIL-RICH COUNTRIES, CAN USE ITS SURPLUS IN CONSTRUCTIVE AND GENEROUS FASHION.

HELMS

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